

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An expression vector, said vector comprising an expression cassette comprising two components:
 - (a) a eukaryotic promoter and a first RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a secretable RNA polymerase (sRNAP) having a secretion domain, and a first internal ribosome entry site (IRES); and
 - (b) a second RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest and a second internal ribosome entry site, wherein the sRNAP enters the cytoplasm of a cell and carries out template dependent synthesis of RNA.
2. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said eukaryotic promoter is a cytomegalovirus promoter.
3. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said RNA polymerase is a non-host RNA polymerase.
4. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said RNA polymerase is a T7 RNA polymerase.
5. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said first IRES and said second IRES are the same sequence.
6. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said first IRES and said second IRES are different sequences.
7. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said first IRES and said second IRES are from encephalomyocarditisvirus.

8. (Original) The expression vector of claim 1, wherein said secretion domain is a member selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45.

9. Canceled

10. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein said ~~therapeutic~~ product of interest is a member selected from the group consisting of: a protein, a nucleic acid, an antisense nucleic acid, ribozymes, tRNA, siRNA, and an antigen.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 1.

12. (Currently amended) A lipid-nucleic acid composition comprising:
a nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising a lipid portion and a nucleic acid portion,
wherein said nucleic acid portion comprises an expression cassette comprising
two components:

(a) a eukaryotic promoter and a first RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a secretable RNA polymerase (sRNAP) having a secretion domain, and a first internal ribosome entry site; and

(b) a second RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest and a second internal ribosome entry site, wherein the sRNAP enters the cytoplasm of a cell and carries out template dependent synthesis of RNA.

13. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid-lipid particle is a serum-stable nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising a nucleic acid fully encapsulated within said lipid portion.

14. (Currently amended) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 12, wherein said lipid portion comprises a cationic lipid, a non-cationic lipid; and a polyethyleneglycol (PEG)-lipid conjugate.

15. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said cationic lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of: N,N-dioleoyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearoyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleoyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture thereof.

16. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said non-cationic lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DOPE), palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylcholine (POPC), egg phosphatidylcholine (EPC), distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), cholesterol, and a mixture thereof.

17. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said cationic lipid comprises from about 2% to about 60% of the total lipid present in said particle.

18. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said non-cationic lipid comprises from about 5% to about 90% of the total lipid present in said particle.

19. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said PEG-lipid conjugate comprises from 1% to about 20% of the total lipid present in said particle.

20. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein said non-cationic lipid is DSPC.

21. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, further comprising cholesterol.

22. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 21, wherein the cholesterol comprises from about 10% to about 60% of the total lipid present in said particle.

23. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein the cationic lipid comprises 7.5% of the total lipid present in said particle; the non-cationic lipid comprises 82.5% of the total lipid present in said particle;

and

the PEG- lipid conjugate comprises 10% of the total lipid present in said particle.

24. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid-lipid particle comprises:

DODMA;

DSPC; and

a PEG- lipid conjugate.

25. (Original) The lipid-nucleic acid composition of claim 24, further comprising cholesterol.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of expressing a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest in a cell, said method comprising:

introducing into a cell an expression vector comprising an expression cassette comprising two components:

(a) a eukaryotic promoter and a first RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a secretable RNA polymerase having a secretion domain, and a first internal ribosome entry site; and

(b) a second RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest and a second internal ribosome entry site.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said RNA polymerase is a T7 RNA polymerase.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said secretion domain is a member selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said expression vector is fully encapsulated in a lipid portion of a serum stable nucleic acid-lipid particle.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said product of interest is a therapeutic product.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said therapeutic product is a member selected from the group consisting of: a protein, a nucleic acid, an antisense nucleic acid, ribozymes, tRNA, siRNA, and an antigen.

32. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest to a cell, said method comprising:

introducing into the cell an expression vector comprising an expression cassette comprising two components:

(a) a eukaryotic promoter and a first RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a secretable RNA polymerase having a secretion domain, and a first internal ribosome entry site; and

(b) a second RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a product of interest and a second internal ribosome entry site.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein said cell is in a mammal.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said mammal is a human.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a disease in a subject, comprising: administering a therapeutically effective amount of an expression cassette comprising two components:

(a) a eukaryotic promoter and a first RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a secretable RNA polymerase having a secretion domain, and a first internal ribosome entry site; and

(b) a second RNA polymerase promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic product and a second internal ribosome entry site.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said subject is a mammal.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein said mammal is a human.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said expression vector is fully encapsulated in a lipid portion of a serum stable nucleic acid-lipid particle.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said disease is a member selected from the group consisting of: a cancer, an autoimmune disease, a cardiovascular disease, a viral disease, a bacterial disease, and an inflammatory disease.

40. (Previously presented) An isolated purified nucleic acid comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:51.